

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 30, 2003 has been carefully considered.

As requested, an abstract has been added to the specification.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph, as containing subject matter not disclosed in the specification. The specification has now been amended to provide support for claim 4, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite on a number of grounds. These claims have now been canceled rewritten as new claims 16-32 in proper form for US practice, in which the "typically" steps have been removed to dependent claims as appropriate. Moreover, no defined step is subsequently excluded.

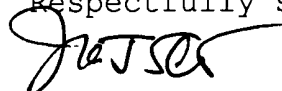
Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Greger or Schlaudt et al, and claims 13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Endo et al. Claims 13, 14 and 15 have been canceled, and the subject matter corresponding these claims does not appear in claims 16-32. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The allowability of claims 1-12 over the art has been noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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